

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

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NSAE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2536

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10173

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ANTUNES VISIT TO UK

REF: (A) LONDON 9805; (B) LISBON 3659

1. SUMMARY: FCO CONSIDERS ANTUNES VISIT WAS USEFUL AND FOUND ANTUNES TO BE FORCEFUL, BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC AND REALISTIC. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGUESE FONMIN ANTUNES VISITED UK FRIDAY, JUNE 27. HIS VISIT INCLUDED EXTENDED SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER, A DISCUSSION WITH FONSEC CALLAGHAN AND AN OFFICIAL DINNER IN HIS HONOR.

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3. ANTUNES ARRIVED IN LONDON IMMEDIATELY AFTER REPRESENTING PORTUGAL AT MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS. WHILE HE SEEMED TIRED, FCO FOUND HIM ALERT AND INTELLIGENT -- A FORCEFUL EXPONENT OF MODERATE VIEWS. FCO FOUND HIM REALISTIC IN DESCRIBING PERILS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION, BUT ON BALANCE RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL.

4. ANTUNES TOLD HIS BRITISH HOSTS THAT MAJORITY OF AFM SUPPORTS THE PREFERENCE OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE FOR A PLURALISTIC DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT WITH A VARIETY OF PARTIES AND A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED ASSEMBLY. AFM IN THE MAJORITY ALSO REJECTS "TOTALITARIAN" PROGRAMS FOR ABOLITION OF POLITICAL PARTY AND DIRECT GOVERNMENT BY THE AFM.

5. AFM ALSO IS INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND WILL RESIST ITS PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE HEGEMONY IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE. THEREFORE, AFM IN MAJORITY WILL DEVOTE URGENT ATTENTION TO BREAKING COMMUNIST PARTY'S MONOPOLY OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA. (OUR FCO SOURCE COULD GIVE NO SPECIFIC INDICATIONS AS TO HOW AFM WOULD DO THIS, BUT BELIEVED THAT AFM MIGHT MOVE DIRECTLY INTO MEDIA OPERATIONS WITH AFM PRESS AND PERHAPS STRICTER AFM CONTROL OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED TRADE UNIONS IN THE MEDIA FIELD.)

6. ANTUNES HIMSELF APPEARED TO ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY OF EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH BRITISH POLITICAL LEADERS. WHEN ASKED, HE ENCOURAGED VISITS ABROAD FOR MEMBERS OF THE AFM EVEN WHEN THEY APPEAR TO BE LEFTIST INCLINED, SINCE HE BELIEVES SUCH VISITS ARE USEFUL IN WIDENING THE PERSPECTIVE OF AFM MEMBERS.

7. ON CSCE, ANTUNES SAID HE BELIEVES SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS ARE MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE ON BASKET III PROPOSALS. ANTUNES BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WEST TO PREPARE IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-THROUGH PROGRAMS TO GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION OF BASKET III PROPOSALS.

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8. ON PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH EEC, FONSEC CALLAGHAN SAID THE UK WAS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING EEC-PORTUGUESE CONNECTIONS, BUT NOTED THERE WAS LIMIT TO WHAT UK COULD DO ALONE IN PROVIDING AID AND ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL.

9. ON NATO, ANTUNES REAFFIRMED PORTUGAL'S INTENTION TO REMAIN IN NATO AND TO CONTINUE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE

STRENGTHENING OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK. PORTUGAL IS A CASE STUDY FOR OTHER EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, ANTUNES SAID, PARTICULARLY SPAIN AND ITALY. HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REAFFIRM PORTUGAL'S INTENTIONS TO REMAIN IN NATO, ESPECIALLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

10. ANTUNES MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS RELATIVE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA, WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

RICHARDSON

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